


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical pickup and an optical information recording/reproducing device are provided, each of which is capable of forming a super-resolution spot to conduct micro-mark recording, and does not undergo signal degradation due to an increased sidelobe in a reproducing operation. A variable phase filter having three regions to produce a phase difference in a radial direction is used, to provide a phase difference of π between the center region and the side regions in a recording operation, so that a super-resolution spot is formed on a recording layer of the optical disk. In a reproducing operation, a phase difference is nullified between the regions of the variable phase filter, so that a normal light spot at a diffraction limit having a smaller sidelobe is formed. The variable phase filter can be formed with a homogeneous-alignment liquid crystal element.

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Date of Deposit MAY 30, 2001
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